updating said plurality of agent parameters with each detected event such that the behavior of said virtual agent is continuously modified with each detected event.

34.   (New) The method of claim 33 wherein said virtual agent is configured to deliver e-mails, and further, wherein one of said events includes one or more of an instruction to send an e-mail and an indication of receiving an e-mail delivered by said virtual agent.

35.   (New) The method of claim 33 wherein said plurality of agent parameters include one or more of an age of said virtual agent, an intelligence level of said agent, a physical strength level of said agent, an intimacy level of said agent, a character trait of said agent, and a state of said agent.

36.   (New) The method of claim 33 wherein said detected events include one or more of a physical experience of said virtual agent, a verbal experience of said virtual agent and a time lapse.

37.   (New) The method of claim 33 further including the step of encoding said agent parameter.

38.   (New) The method of claim 37 wherein said encoding step includes the step of converting said agent parameter into base 64 format.

39.   (New) The method of claim 37 further including the step of decoding said encoded agent parameter.

40.   (New) The method of claim 33 wherein said agent parameter includes a four byte data.

41.   (New) The method of claim 33 further including the step of displaying said virtual agent.

42.   (New) The method of claim 41 wherein said step of displaying said agent includes the step of animating said virtual agent.

43.   (New) The method of claim 33 wherein said animated virtual agent is displayed as an animated pet.

44.   (New) The method of claim 33 further including the step of storing said agent parameter.

45.   (New) The method of claim 44 wherein said animated pet includes one of a dog, a cat, a tortoise, a rabbit and a bear.

46.   (New) The method of claim 33 wherein said virtual agent is provided with a predetermined life span.

47.   (New) The method of claim 46 further including the step of generating a message when said life span expires.

48.   (New) The method of claim 47 further including the step of displaying said message on a display unit.

49.   (New) A method of controlling a virtual agent, comprising the steps of:

generating a virtual agent having a plurality of agent parameters, said agent parameters configured to determine the behavior of said virtual agent;

displaying said virtual agent on a display unit;

interacting with said virtual agent on said display unit; and

updating said plurality of agent parameters based on said interacting step such that the behavior of said virtual agent is continuously modified.

50.   (New) The method of claim 49 wherein said step of interacting with said virtual agent includes the steps of:

positioning at least a portion of a display of an input device over the virtual agent on said display unit;

detecting an input signal from said input device; and

modifying the agent parameters such that said displaying step displays said virtual agent in response to said input signal.

51.   (New) The method of claim 50 wherein said input signal includes one of petting said virtual agent and hitting said virtual agent.

52.   (New) The method of claim 49 wherein said virtual agent has a predetermined life span such that the behavior of said agent is continuously modified during the life span.

53.   (New) The method of claim 52 wherein said predetermined life span is two years.

54.   (New) The method of claim 49 wherein said virtual agent is capable of generating one or more messages based on the updated agent parameters responsive to a state of said virtual agent.

55. (New) The method of claim 54 further including the step of automatically transmitting said one or more generated messages from said virtual agent to a corresponding user for display on said display unit.

56. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein said one or more displayed messages indicates the state of said virtual agent.

57. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein said step of displaying includes the step of animating said displayed virtual agent.

58. (New) A method automatic control of the transmission of an E-mail, comprising the steps of:

receiving a send command designating the transmission of an e-mail to a recipient;

appending a plurality of agent parameters to a main mail text of said e-mail, said agent parameters controlling the behavior of an agent delivering said e-mail;

transmitting said e-mail to said recipient;

automatically returning an indication when said recipient has received said e-mail; and

modifying said agent parameters based on said agent interacting with said recipient.

59. (New) The method of claim 58 wherein said agent parameters are continuously updated based on interaction of said agent such that the behavior of said agent is continuously modified.

60. (New) The method of claim 58 wherein said transmitting step includes the step of transmitting said e-mail via a mail server, and further,

67